



PRESS RELEASE
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AIA Georgia

3rd Annual High School Student Design Competition Focuses on Light Rail Station in Old 4th Ward

Atlanta, GA - April 17, 2008 The Home Depot Foundation Board members are on board for the American Institute of Architects Atlanta's (AIA Atlanta) third annual High School Student Design competition reception. They will be in attendance at the Rich Theater in the Woodruff Arts Center to honor the three winning students on Tuesday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. Each winner will receive a scholarship from AIA Atlanta. The student work will be available for viewing at the event. All press are invited to attend the event free of charge. Please contact [Anne Melanson](mailto:anne.melanson@aiaatlanta.org) (404.222.0099) for details. The event is open to the public and the cost is \$15 (refreshments are included). Registration can be made through the [AIA Atlanta website](http://www.aiaatlanta.org), calendar section.

"This year's High School Student Design Competition is an incredible opportunity for AIA Atlanta to showcase our commitment to three ideas: the development of students and the future design leaders of our community; the importance of our built environment and its daily impact on our lives; and the challenge of tackling exciting issues pertinent to Atlanta like the Beltline and the Old Fourth Ward Master Planning effort," said Alex Wu, AIA LEED® AP. "I'm looking forward to seeing the ideas generated by these students and the conversations it can start with the community."

The challenge presented to the students was to design a new light rail transit station along the Atlanta Beltline at the site of the Ralph McGill Station located in the Fourth Ward Neighborhood. The transit station is to be a civic structure that is pedestrian-friendly, links to the planned multi-use trail, encourages alternate methods of transportation, is accessible to the disabled, and demonstrates innovative strategies for environmental sustainability. The station will serve as a model for other stations.

"The Home Depot Foundation is pleased to provide an opportunity for young people to incorporate sustainability into the built environment through AIA Atlanta's design competition," said Kelly Caffarelli, president, The Home Depot Foundation. "While the

Foundation is focused on building affordable housing, we are committed to improving the overall health of our communities, which includes increased access to transportation and green space through projects like the Beltline."

The Award Program opens with an introduction and overview of AIA Atlanta by Bruce McEvoy, AIA, President AIA Atlanta. Bill Carpenter, Ph.D, FAIA will introduce the jurors, and panel. Prior to remarks by the jury, a video of the jurying process and comments about project submissions will be presented. The esteemed jurors are Oscar Harris, FAIA, Ryan Gravel, and Jay Silverman, AIA.

About the Judges:

Ryan Gravel, the visionary behind the Beltline, has accepted a position with Perkins+Will, a commercial architect design firm whose work includes the Centennial YMCA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 106 Building. Gravel had previously been consulting and teaching design studios at Georgia Tech. The Beltline concept originated with Gravel's 1999 masters degree thesis. He then went on to found the non-profit Friends of the Belt Line. The original focus of the belt-line thesis was on establishing a light rail link around the central portion of the city.

Jay G. Silverman, AIA, LEED AP Jay Silverman is a Senior Associate in the Housing & Mixed-Use Studio at Lord, Aeck & Sargent, an Atlanta-based architecture firm. He focuses on project management, master planning and residential design for the studio, whose projects include urban private housing and mixed-use developments. The studio focuses on urban housing and mixed-use development projects, including both new construction and the rehabilitation and adaptive use of older buildings located in in-town Atlanta and other urban areas throughout the southeastern United States. Since joining Lord, Aeck & Sargent in 2005, Jay has been involved in the design of projects ranging from high rise mixed-use towers, to multi-building residential projects to urban infill mixed-use developments. He has helped build the studio's reputation for high quality residential design and for finding creative solutions to complex design issues associated with mixed-use and urban-infill development. Recent projects include The Skyline Mixed-Use Tower in Buckhead, and the Sage Condominium in St. Petersburg, Florida. Jay currently serves on the board of directors for the Atlanta Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as the Director of Development, and is a member of the steering committee for the annual AIA Atlanta High School Student Design Competition. He was a panelist at the Multi-Housing World national conference in 2006.

William Norris, Assoc AIA LEED AP William Norris works for Niles Bolton Associates, an architecture firm based out of Atlanta with offices in Alexandria, VA, and San Jose, CA. His experience includes multi-family residential/mixed-use projects. He is a graduate of Southern Polytechnic State University. As a student, he served as a leader for the American Institute of Architecture Students Chapter at Southern Polytechnic State University, organizing several new chapter events including Architecture Merit Badge for the Boy Scouts of America. The SPSU AIAS Architecture Merit Badge Clinic won a national honor award as a community service project. Upon graduation, William spent 14 weeks visiting ten countries in Europe through an architecture study abroad program at

Southern Poly. William has continued to serve our community as a mentor to the student led AIAS Freedom By Design Chapter at Southern Poly. For the past three years, he has led an architecture activity at two Atlanta area Elementary Schools through Hands on Atlanta. William is past Chair of the AIA Atlanta Tour Committee. He has served on the AIA Atlanta High School Student Design Competition Board for the past two years.

About the Presenting Sponsor:

The Home Depot Foundation was created in 2002 to further the community building goals of The Home Depot. The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to building affordable homes for working families that are healthy to live in and affordable to own. To make homes healthy and affordable, the Foundation encourages developers to incorporate responsible design and use durable materials to ensure that homes are more energy and water efficient, have good indoor air quality, and provide a safe and healthy space to live. During its first five years, The Home Depot Foundation granted \$70 million to nonprofit organizations and supported the development of more than 50,000 affordable, healthy homes. For more information, visit www.homedepotfoundation.org.

The Bronze Sponsors are: Applied Software, Brick Southeast, Custom Aluminum Systems, Inc., HDR and Sesco Lighting.

About AIA Atlanta

AIA Atlanta's Mission...

Advance the quality of life in our communities through inspiration and leadership in design and the built environment.

The American Institute of Architects Atlanta (AIA Atlanta) vision is to bring leadership to the built environment. AIA Atlanta is the ninth largest chapter in the nation with more than 1800 members of licensed architects, architectural interns, and allied professionals. Our membership stretches from Griffin to the Northeastern tip of Georgia.

AIA Atlanta represents Atlanta's voice in architecture, is dedicated to serving its members and to advancing their value while improving the quality of the built environment in the metropolitan region of Atlanta and North Georgia.

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